



Curiosity Containers

The aims of curiosity containers is for the child to engage with motivating items with an adult to support anticipation, exploring and engaging (Intensive Interaction). The principles of Intensive Interaction are an important key. It is a way to interact with your child that helps them to use the 'building blocks' of communication, such as eye contact, taking turns, sharing enjoyment and emotions. It's a way of having fun with your child that shows him/her how valuable and enjoyable communicating can be.

Who would benefit the most from Curiosity Containers:

- Children who are at the Social Partner stage (SCERTS framework).
- Children who have limited attention and motivation.
- In a 1-1 situation with the child, this can be within the class, but avoid an area where there are distractions.
- Easy for parents to implement at home.

What do you need?

- Different containers, e.g. shoe box, tin, a present box etc. It needs to have a lid. Cover the containers if there is a lot of writing or distractions on it.
- Inside each container place motivating items, each container to have a theme e.g. one container could have long string like items, beads, ribbons, wool etc. Another container could have light up toys/objects.
- Natural materials are important, but they must be motivating for the child to encourage exploration.
- Make several containers so the child can have a choice.

Introducing the Curiosity containers.

1. Encourage the child to go to a quieter area in class or home.
2. Sit together with the child and place two or three containers in front of them.
3. Start to open one of the containers to see if the child is interested in it.
4. Adult to look into the container and with their facial expression and vocalisations, express your excitement.

5. Encourage the child to look, by placing the container towards them. If the child is not interested that's ok, try a different container.
6. Once the child is exploring a container, adult to follow the child's lead and copy what they do with how they explore the items, their vocalisations and body movements (Intensive Interaction).
7. When it is time to finish, give the child a warning that it's 'nearly finished', follow this with a countdown from five and shown with the adults fingers. Encourage the child to tidy away, but this may be a challenge for them so it doesn't matter if they don't do it. Make sure the child knows where they are moving on to (visual supports).



Most importantly have fun with your child.